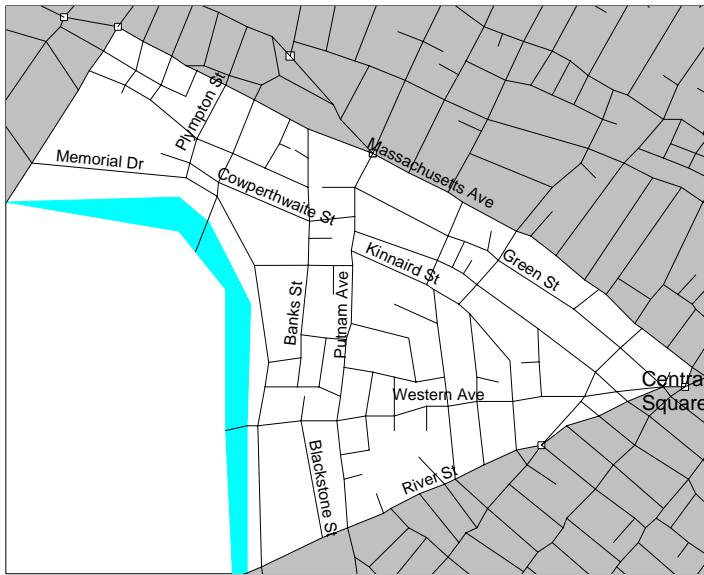
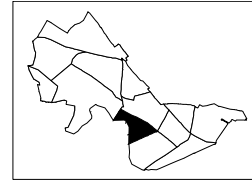


# NEIGHBORHOOD 7

## RIVERSIDE



**BOUNDARIES:** bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street

**POPULATION:** 11,201 residents  
3,341 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$27,415

Neighborhood #7 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officer cars) and Cars 6R and 10R (1 officer cars). Also included within its boundaries are walking routes 7A and 7B.

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1999 - 2003

CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Housebreaks	26	38	61	39	38
Street Robbery	11	21	11	19	19
Auto Theft	36	26	38	30	33
Larceny from MVs	55	25	35	41	32
Malicious Destruction	92	89	85	86	72
Drug Arrests	17	11	20	15	17

### 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

There were no **auto theft** patterns in Riverside in 2003. Twenty-one of the 33 incidents resulted in recoveries, and only eight of the recovered vehicles were damaged (minor damage in most incidents). Two-thirds of auto thefts occurred during the spring and summer months. • Three **drug arrests** were made June 27 at the police department when defendants who had been placed under arrest in different neighborhoods for unrelated offenses were found in the possession of drugs, boosting Riverside's total. Most of the neighborhood's arrests were the result of marijuana or cocaine possession. • Six **street robberies** resulted in arrests in Riverside; homeless persons were the perpetrators in four of these incidents. The 700-1300 blocks of Mass Ave. were the location of six of the 19 street robberies reported. • Damage to cars, mainly broken windows, made up the majority of **malicious destruction of property** incidents. About a quarter of incidents took place on Mass Ave. There were ten instances of graffiti, but none of them seem to be indicative of tagging. • The items most commonly removed in **housebreaks** included laptops, jewelry, entertainment equipment (DVD players, DVD's, etc.) and cash. The last four months of the year saw a marked increase in activity, as more than half the incidents occurred from mid-August to the end of December. In multiple instances, the perpetrator(s) struck multiple apartments in a building in succession, inflating the number for the neighborhood. • There were small sprees of **larcenies from motor vehicles** in June, July, and August. The most common method of entering automobiles was by breaking a window. In four instances, vehicles were left unlocked or windows were left open, facilitating entry.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR RIVERSIDE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	1981-1990	Rank '81-'90*	1991-2002	Rank '91-'02*	Rank 2003*
Housebreaks	83	7	44	6	7
Street Robbery	34	4	17	6	4
Auto Theft	92	9	40	9	6
Larceny from MVs	87	7	46	8	9
Malicious Destruction	78	9	76	8	7

\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Riverside has the fourth highest population in the city, but it ranks well below the average for almost all index crimes. Along with its 10 thousand residents, Riverside has two housing developments (Putnam Gardens and the River-Howard homes), two major parks (Hoyt Field and Riverside Press Park), and many commercial establishments along Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, and Western Avenue. Several Harvard University dormitories and other properties occupy the northwestern quarter. Riverside's borders also encompass the United States Post Office and the Cambridge Police Department headquarters.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the northwestern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on university property.*

- **Malicious destruction** is the only crime that has not shown a significant average decline in Riverside since the 1980s, though it is low compared to the rest of the city. Most of this vandalism targets motor vehicles. Occasional patterns of this crime over long holiday weekends have been a problem in the past.
- **Street robberies** are low for a neighborhood of Riverside's population, but they remain a pressing problem. Most of these incidents are on Western Avenue. Riverside has an exceptionally low **housebreak** rate for its size; a few clusters appear on Franklin and Kinnaird Streets, and at Putnam Gardens.
- Hoyt Field, the site of a murder in the summer of 1997, has long been considered a **robbery** and **narcotics** hot spot.
- The only neighborhoods with lower **auto theft** and **larceny from motor vehicles** totals have less than half of Riverside's population.

